

Application No. 09/881,043
Supplemental Reply dated January 5, 2004
Response to Office Action dated September 3, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A filter comprising a filter housing with an inlet and an outlet for a fluid to be filtered, a filter cartridge arranged in said housing so that fluid from said inlet must flow through said filter cartridge to reach said outlet, and an additional functional part; said filter cartridge comprising an annularly constructed filter medium arranged between two axial end plates, wherein said filter medium of said filter cartridge is provided with a lateral recess for accommodating said additional functional part of said filter, and said additional functional part comprises a probe of a water level sensor or a suction tube of a liquid discharge, wherein the filter medium is comprised of a sheet of filter material folded in zig-zag fashion to form a pleated structure, wherein said lateral recess is a folded pocket formed by an enlarged distance between adjacent folds, and wherein said lateral recess in the filter medium of the filter cartridge extends axially at least to one of the end plates of the filter cartridge and said one end plate is provided with a notch which is aligned with said lateral recess in the filter medium.

2-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A filter according to claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a housing cup and a housing cover, and wherein said functional part is mounted on said cover and extends into the lateral recess in the filter medium of the filter cartridge when the filter cartridge is installed in said housing.

9. (Original) A filter according to claim 1, wherein said filter is fuel filter for an internal combustion engine.

10. (currently amended) A filter cartridge comprising an annularly constructed filter medium arranged between two axial end plates, wherein the filter medium is provided with a lateral recess for accommodating a functional part of a filter in which the filter cartridge is to be installed, wherein said filter medium is a pleated filter sheet, and said lateral

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recess comprises a pocket formed by an enlarged spacing between two adjacent pleats, and wherein the two axial end plates are provided with notches aligned with the lateral recess in the filter medium so that said functional part can be inserted in an axial direction through one of the end plates into said lateral recess in the filter medium, and wherein the lateral recess is arranged radially outside of the annular filter medium.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A filter cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the lateral recess in the filter medium extends axially from one of the end plates to the other end plate.